

## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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SUBJECT Borne Chemical Site  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

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FILE

This is to review the current situation regarding the Borne Chemical site in Elizabeth, New Jersey. As you know, this site was initially considered for ranking by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for inclusion on the NPL. Attempts to score the site using the Hazard Ranking System were frustrated by a lack of data, specifically, there is no documented surface water or groundwater contamination or air emissions; and there is conflicting data on the volume and hazard of liquids in the storage tanks on the property. In short, the lack of information precluded inclusion on the NPL.

EPA had considered sampling the tanks at Borne in the spring of 1981, however, this effort was canceled when the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Solid Waste Administration and Valley Forge Engineering, Borne's Consultant, initiated a tank sampling program aimed at the eventual characterization and removal of the material in the tanks. The data from the split-samples taken for PCB-analysis showed conflicting results; and EPA provided technical assistance in the review and resolution of the problems with the data.

The resolution of the situation in July of 1982 was that the material in the eight (8) tanks sampled would be removed by Valley Forge Engineering and the tanks possibly reused. NJDEP and Borne were continuing discussions on sampling and disposition of the material, if any, in the remaining tanks.

It now appears that the material in the eight (8) tanks has not been removed, likewise the remaining tanks have not been sampled. Therefore, I believe that we should reconsider the Borne Chemical site for inclusion on the NPL during the next quarterly update. Given the history of NJDEP's involvement with Borne, NJDEP should take the lead in (1) developing the data necessary for HRS ranking and (2) clarifying the proposed use of the tanks and Borne's solvency to ascertain the sites RCRA status.